



STAFF NOTES:

Latin American Trends

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CONTENTS

December 4, 1974

Castro Speaks.	1
Cuba Disillusioned with CEMA	3
Panama-Cuba: Good Neighbors	5
Venezuela: Taking The First Step	8
Venezuelan Labor Group to Cuba	13
Jamaica: Seaga Challenges Prime Minister	14
Paraguay: Stroessner Foils Assassination Attempt	17

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Paraguay: Stroessner Foils Assassination Attempt

Paraguayan security has thwarted a scheme in its final planning stages to kill President Stroessner and other high officials. Police and military officers raided a house occupied by seven terrorists on the outskirts of the capital after arresting one of the group for trying to purchase explosives from a naval officer.

The subversives are publicly linked to a dissident faction of the Colorado party, but reportedly had received training and financing in Argentina from the Marxist Peoples Revolutionary Army, the most powerful terrorist organization in South America. Despite the stupid blunder that produced the mass arrests, the game plan to blow up Stroessner's automobile was the most sophisticated of many attempts to oust the President since he came to power twenty years ago.

This incident undoubtedly will persuade Stroessner to take additional security precautions. Government officials previously have expressed fear that terrorist organizations in Argentina were probably assisting Paraguayan exile groups. Although Stroessner maintains excellent intelligence on their activities, geographic conditions prevent effective policing of the Paraguayan-Argentine border. For this reason, an incursion by dissidents is the most likely threat to government stability. [redacted]

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